

# MASSACHUSETTS CATCH & RELEASE FRESHWATER SPORTFISHING AWARD AFFIDAVIT

A Massachusetts sportfishing award pin will be issued to qualified anglers who catch and release a freshwater fish which equals or exceeds the minimum length for the species listed on the reverse side of this form, provided any such angler has conformed to the rules of the program. Those catching the longest fish in each category during each calendar year will be recognized at an annual award ceremony.



**ALL items on this form MUST be filled out.**

**Please Print Clearly**

**Angler's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(number & street/box number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(town, state & zip code)

**Phone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_  
area code

**Fish Species:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fish Length:** \_\_\_\_\_ **inches**      **Date of Catch:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Tackle:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bait/Lure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where Caught:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of waterbody) (city/town of waterbody)

I hereby swear, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the above statements are true, that this entry complies with all rules on the reverse side, and that this fish was caught in a legal manner in Massachusetts.

**Angler's Signature (parent's signature if under 18):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fishing/Sporting License Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments on the Catch (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

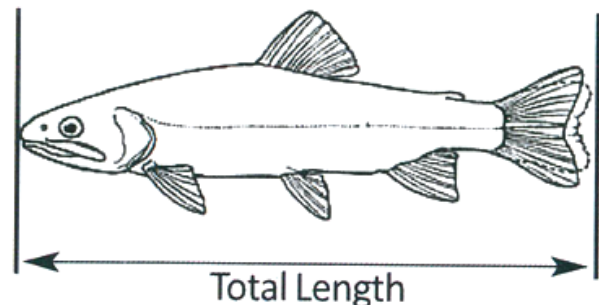
# Catch & Release Program Rules and Eligibility

1. All legally licensed anglers are eligible for the Massachusetts Freshwater Sportfishing Awards.
2. Fish must be taken from waters within the state of Massachusetts (or the interstate ponds listed in the Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping) **that are open to the public at all times**. This rule does not apply to the Wachusett or Quabbin Reservoirs, or other public bodies of water which are closed on a seasonal basis.
3. Fish taken from waters which are not open to the public at all times (such as private ponds or sporting club ponds) are NOT eligible for awards.
4. Fish must be legally taken on hook and line.
5. The fish must be measured at the **site of capture**, photographed against a standard measuring device, then immediately released. **The photo must include the entire fish and the measurement must be clearly discernible** (see example on website).
6. A clear, side view, close-up photograph of the fish must be included with all affidavits. In addition to a side view photo, all affidavits for catfish and bullheads must also include a full body, dorsal (back) view of the fish (see example on website).
7. Measurement will be maximum total length (see diagram below). All fish measurements will be rounded up to the nearest ¼ inch.
8. It is the angler's responsibility to provide MassWildlife with completed affidavits and required photos.  
**Note: All affidavits must be postmarked no later than January 10th of the following year.**
9. All photographs or images associated with the program, including those submitted by anglers and those taken by agency personnel, become the property of the MassWildlife. Names of anglers, photographic or video-graphic images may be used in agency publications, promotional materials, or for other non-commercial uses.
10. MassWildlife reserves the right to change or modify the program rules at any time. All decisions of MassWildlife are final.

## MINIMUM LENGTHS IN INCHES TO QUALIFY FOR AN AWARD

Broodstock Salmon	31	Northern Pike	36
Brook Trout	16	Rainbow Trout	20
Brown Trout	22	American Shad	22
Bullhead	15	Smallmouth Bass	20
Carp	31	Sunfish*	10
Chain Pickerel	25	Tiger Muskellunge	34
Channel Catfish	25	Tiger Trout	16
Crappie/Calico	14	Walleye	24
Lake Trout	30	White Catfish	19
Landlocked Salmon	22	White Perch	14
Largemouth Bass	21	Yellow Perch	14

## How to Measure a Fish



- Lay the fish on top of or beside a measuring device
- Do not measure over the curve of the body
- Close the fish's mouth and squeeze the tail lobes together

\* Sunfish category includes Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redbreast Sunfish, Green Sunfish, and Rock Bass.

Questions? Call us at 508-389-6300 any weekday from 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. or visit [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)

Send completed affidavits and photos to:

**Sportfishing Awards Program**  
**MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**  
**1 Rabbit Hill Road**  
**Westborough, MA 01581**